PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Title	Truckee – Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project			
Brief Description	The Truckee-Boca Musk Thistle Attack project goal is eradication of musk thistle and			
	star thistle on up to 320 acres of National Forest System Lands within Nevada and			
	Sierra Counties on the Truckee and Sierraville Ranger District of the Tahoe National			
	Forest. The removal of musk thistle and seeding opened ground with native grass seed			
	would increase the efficiency of the floodplain to filter out sedimentation because the tap			
	root structure of the musk thistle would be replaced by the fine fibrous roots of native			
	grasses that would hold soil fines in place. On dry upland sites, the removal of weeds			
	and replacement of bitterbrush from seed would restore native vegetation that would be			
	available for deer forage and other wildlife. The removal of musk thistle is focused			
	around the Stampede and Boca Reservoir areas. The star thistle infestation deserves			
	immediate attention since it is relatively small and disjunct from the main infestation on			
	the west side of the Sierra Nevada mountains. This project is part of a larger effort to			
	control the spread of musk thistle within Nevada County. This project complements			
	musk thistle treatments in neighboring Sierra County funded by the Sierra County			
	Resource Advisory Council (RAC).			
	Additional funds and in-kind service to support the project are being contributed by the			
	Sierra County Resource Advisory Council, Tahoe National Forest, and America's			
	Recovery and Reinvestment Act.			
Total Requested Amount	33,867.44			
Other Fund Proposed	52,661.00			
Total Project Cost	86,528.00			
Project Category	Site Improvement/Restoration			
Project Area/Size	320			
Project Area Type	Acres			
Have you submitted to SNC this fiscal year?	No			

Is this application	No		
related to other SNC			
funding?			
Project Results			
Restoration			
		T	
Project Purpose		Project Purpose Percent	
Water Quality			
County			
Nevada			
Sierra			
Orale Desires			
Sub Region			
Central			
N # 0 # 1			
North Central			

PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION

Name	Ms. Joanne Roubique,
Title	District Ranger
Organization	USDA Forest Service - Tahoe National Forest
Primary Address	10811 Stockrest Springs Rd, , , Truckee, CA, 96161
Primary Phone/Fax	530-587-3558 Ext.
Primary Email	jroubique@fs.fed.us

PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION

Project Location

Address: 10811 Stockrest Springs Rd, , , Truckee, CA, 96161 United States

Water Agency: Lahontan Water Quality Control Board

Latitude: 39.41666 Longitude: -120.1250

Congressional District: n/a Senate: n/a Assembly: n/a Within City Limits: No

City Name:

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Grant Application Type		
Grant Application Type:		
Category One Site Improvement		
Grant Application Type:		
Category One Site Improvement		

PROJECT OTHER CONTACTS INFORMATION

Other Grant Project Contacts

Ms. Susan Urie, Name:

Day-to-Day Responsibility 5305871439 Project Role:

Phone:

Phone Ext:

E-mail: gsurie@usamedia.tv

UPLOADS

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name
Completed Application Checklist
Table of Contents
Full Application Form
Authorization to Apply or Resolution
Narrative Descriptions
Detailed Budget Form
Restrictions/Agreements
NEPA Documentation
Letters of Support
Letters of Support
Project Location Map
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site

Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Topographic Map
Parcel Map Showing County Assessors Parcel Number
Letters of Support

To preserve the integrity of the uploaded document, headers, footers and page numbers have not been added by the system.

Appendix B1 Full Application Checklist

Project Name: Truckee Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project

Applicant: Truckee Ranger District, Tahoe National Forest, Susan Urie, East Zone Botanist

Please mark each box: check if item is included in the application; mark "N/A" if not applicable to the project. "N/A" identifications must be explained in the application. Please consult with SNC staff prior to submission if you have any questions about the applicability to your project of any items on the checklist. All applications must include a CD including an electronic file of each checklist item, if applicable. The naming convention for each electronic file is listed after each item on the checklist. (Electronic File Name = EFN: "naming convention". file extension choices)

Submission requirements for all Category One and Category Two Grant Applications 1. Completed Application Checklist (EFN: Checklist.doc,.docx,.rtf, or .pdf) 2. Table of Contents (EFN: TOC.doc,.docx,.rtf, or .pdf) 3. \times Full Application Project Information Form (EFN: Slform.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf) 4. Authorization to Apply or Resolution (EFN: authorization.doc, .docx, .rtf, or .pdf) Narrative Descriptions - Submit a single document that includes each of the 5. following narrative descriptions (EFN: Narrative.doc, .docx, .rtf) a. \square Detailed Project Description (5,000 character maximum) Project Description including Goals/Results, Scope of Work, Location, Purpose, etc. Project Summary Environmental Setting b. Morkplan and Schedule (1,000 character maximum) c. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements(1,000 character maximum) d. Organizational Capacity(1,000 character maximum) e. Cooperation and Community Support (1,000 character maximum) f. X Long Term Management and Sustainability (1,000 character maximum) g. Performance Measures (1,000 character maximum) 6. Supplemental and Supporting documents a. Detailed Budget Form (EFN: Budget.xls, .xlsx) b. Restrictions, Technical/Environmental Documents and Agreements, as applicable

Restrictions / Agreements (EFN: RestAgree.pdf)

Regulatory Requirements / Permits (EFN: RegPermit.pdf)

	California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation (EFN:
	CEQA.pdf) Exempt under 15304 Minor Alterations to Land
	National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation (EFN: NEPA.pdf)
C.	Cooperation and Community Support
	Letters of Support (EFN: LOS.pdf)
d.	Long-Term Management and Sustainability
	Long-Term Management Plan (EFN: LTMP.pdf)
e.	Maps and Photos
	Project Location Map (EFN: LocMap.pdf)
	☐ Parcel Map showing County Assessor's Parcel Number(s) N/A Forest
	Service System Lands only (EFN: ParcelMap.pdf)
	Topographic Map See Musk Thistle Noxious Weed site map. All work would
	occur on the Truckee Ranger District of the Tahoe NF.(EFN: Topo.pdf)
	Photos of the Project Site (10 maximum) (EFN: Photo.jpg, .gif)
f.	Additional submission requirements for Conservation Easement Acquisition
	applications only
	Acquisition Schedule (EFN: acqSched.doc,.docx,.rtf,.pdf)
	Willing Seller Letter (EFN: WillSell.pdf)
	Real Estate Appraisal (EFN: Appraisal.pdf)
	Conservation Easement Language (EFN: CE.pdf)
g.	Additional submission requirements for Site Improvement / Restoration Project
J	applications only
	□ Land Tenure Documents – attach only if documentation was not included
	with Pre-application. As stated in the letter of authorization and support the
	project activities would occur on Forest Service System Lands (EFN: Tenure.pdf)
	Site Plan See project map. All sites can be accessed by vehicle and on foot
	by weed crew. All work would occur in June and July as described in Timeline.
	Leases or Agreements. The Tahoe National Forest is a member of the
	Nevada Placer Weed Management Area group. Nevada/Placer Weed
	Management Area Strategic Plan Executive Summary
	(EFN: LeaseAgmnt.pdf)
I certif	y that the information contained in the Application, including required
attach	ments, is accurate.
	·
	
Signe	d (Authorized Representative) Date
Nome	and Title (print or type)
ivame	and Title (print or type)

Table of Contents: Truckee Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project

Completed Application Checklist

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Organizational Capacity7
Cooperation and Community Support7
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Performance Measures8
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Detailed Budget Form Restrictions11
Regulatory Requirements / Permits None needed under Category 2 Lahontan WQCB
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National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation
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Parcel Map showing County Assessor's Parcel Number(s) N/A Forest Service System Lands only
Topographic Map See Musk Thistle Noxious Weed site map. All work would occur on the Truckee Ranger District of the Tahoe NF
Photos of the Project Site57
Additional submission requirements for Site Improvement / Restoration Project applications only
Land Tenure Documents – attach only if documentation was not included with Preapplication. N/A As stated in the letter of authorization and support the project activities would occur on Forest Service System Lands
Site Plan See project map. All sites can be accessed by vehicle and on foot by weed crew. All work would occur in June and July as described in Timeline.
Leases or Agreements. The Tahoe National Forest is a member of the Nevada Placer Weed Management Area group. Nevada/Placer Weed Management Area Strategic Plan Executive Summary

Appendix B2

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 84 - PROJECT INFORMATION FORM

	Rev. August 2011		
PROJECT NAME Truckee - Boca Musk Thi	stle Attack Project		
APPLICANT NAME (Legal name, address, and zip code)			
Tahoe National Forest – Truckee Ranger District			
10811 Stockrest Springs Road			
Truckee, CA 96161			
PERSON WITH FISCAL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT CONTRACT/INVOICING Name and title – type or print Phone Email Address			
☐Mr.			
X Ms. Susan C. Urie, East Zone Botanist 530-	587-3558 ext 263 surie@fs.fed.us		
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR OR PLANNING DIRECTOR CONTACT INFORMATION (<u>At least</u> one entry Is required)			
Name: Jeff Pylman, Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner Phone Number: 530-273-2648			
Email address: jeffrey.pylman@co.nevada.ca.us			
NEAREST PUBLIC WATER AGENCY (OR AGENCIES) CONTACT INFORMATION (<u>At least</u> one entry Is required)			
Name: Lahontan Water Quality Control Board	Phone Number: 530-542-5417		
Email address: dcushman@waterboards.ca.gov			
Ţ.			
Name:	Phone Number:		
Email address:			
Please identify the appropriate project category One)	below and provide the associated details (Choose		
X Category One Site Improvement	☐ Category Two Pre-Project Activities		
Category One Conservation Easement Acquisition			
X Site Improvement/Conservation Easement Acquisition	Select one primary Site Improvement/Conservation Easement		
Project area: _Truckee River and Boca Reservoir	Acquisition deliverable		
Total Acres:320	X Restoration		
SNC Portion (if different):same			
· , — ———	Resource Protection		

Total Miles (i.e. river or stream bank):4 SNC Portion (if different):same	☐ Infrastructure Development / Improvement ☐ Conservation Easement	
For Conservation Easement Acquisitions Only Appraisal Included Will submit appraisal by		
☐ Pre-Project Activities	Select one primary Pre-F Permit CEQA/NEPA Compliance Appraisal Plan	Project deliverable Condition Assessment Biological Survey Environmental Site Assessment



Forest Service

Truckee Ranger District Tahoe National Forest 10811 Stockrest Springs Road Truckee, CA 96161

530 587-3558 530 587-6907 TDD 530 587-6914 FAX

File Code: 2080

Date: January 20, 2012

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84, 2011- 2012 Grant Cycle

Dear Sierra Nevada Conservancy Members:

This letter authorizes the East Zone Botanist to apply for the Sierra Conservancy Proposition 84 Grant Program. The grant proposal is asking for funds for **Truckee Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project**, submitted by Susan Urie. The project proposes to hand treat numerous known musk thistle and one known starthistle infestation that are priority "A", and "C" rated noxious weeds, to monitor previously treated areas, and to survey areas for new occurrences. All work would be conducted on National Forest System (NFS) lands in the Truckee Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest.

I fully support this proposal because it directly benefits NFS lands by removing invasive plants, helping to improve wildlife and native plant habitat, stabilizing the river banks by re-establishing native grasses and improving the recreation experience along the Little Truckee and Truckee Rivers and around Boca Reservoir. In addition, it continues an important partnership between the Forest Service and the Nevada County Weed Management Area group and the Plumas Sierra County Weed Management Area group. This proposal also builds on a new partnership with the newly formed Truckee River Weed Warriors group. It is also important because Nevada County is actively treating musk thistle on private and State lands adjacent to NFS lands and implementing this project will ensure the combined treatments will be most effective. The combined efforts of all the partners are needed to control the spread of this "A" rated noxious weed.

Sincerely,

JOANNE B. ROUBIQUE District Ranger





PROJECT DESCRIPTION: Truckee – Boca Musk Thistle Attack

The project goal is to work towards eradication of the occurrences of musk thistle and starthistle on National Forest System lands within Nevada and Sierra Counties on the Sierraville and Truckee Ranger Districts of the Tahoe National Forest. The removal of musk thistle by hand would be centered around Boca and Stampede Reservoir areas. Musk thistle is a California State rated "A" listed noxious weed meaning that it ranks at top priority for eradication or at least control. There is one location where starthistle would also be removed by hand pulling. Starthistle is a "C" rated noxious weed but this infestation is disjunct from the widespread occurrences known on the western side of the Sierra Nevada and so deserves immediate attention.

The scope of this project would include about 75 mapped musk thistle sites that are known to range in size from 1 to 4,000 plants each. There are two large occurrences along the banks of the Truckee and Little Truckee Rivers that would be visited several times to make sure that weeds are thoroughly treated. This is part of a larger effort to control the spread and eliminate the occurrences of musk thistle within the Nevada County concurrently by cooperating with Nevada County Agricultural Commissioner. The treatment of musk thistle would occur on both sides of the property lines so that effective control and potential eradication is possible.

Grant funding would be used to hire a crew of 3 temporary workers that would hand pull musk thistle and starthistle on the Forest Service land. The crew would work for the next two years working during June and July (2013 and 2014) before plants set seed. Native grass seed and shrub seed would be obtained from local sources by hiring a privately owned seed collection crew. The seed would be spread in openings from which musk thistle dominated patches are to be cleared. Funds would be used to supervise and work with the weed crew during the same period and to map, take pictures and monitor progress as work is accomplished.

This grant funding would allow the Tahoe National Forest to step up efforts to get ahead of the spread. The outcome would be to restore ecosystem function in forests, riverbanks and associated meadows for wildlife, public citizens and native plants. The removal of musk thistle and seeding opened ground with native grass seed would increase the efficiency of the floodplain to filter out sedimentation because the tap root structure of the musk thistle would be replaced by the fine fibrous roots of native grasses that would hold soil fines in place. On dry upland sites, the removal of weeds and replacement of bitterbrush from seed would restore native vegetation that would be available for deer forage and other wildlife. The outcome around Boca Reservoir would be to keep the shorelines free of noxious weeds to prevent spread and to create a better environment for recreation and wildlife. There is no point in revegetation below the high waterline because the plants would be killed during high water periods.

PROJECT SUMMARY

The project goal is to work towards eradication of the occurrences of musk thistle and starthistle on National Forest System lands within Nevada and Sierra Counties on the Truckee and Sierraville Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest. The removal of musk thistle would be centered around the Stampede and Boca Reservoir areas. In addition, one location of starthistle would also be removed by hand pulling. The starthistle infestation deserves immediate attention since it is relatively small and disjunct from the main infestation on the westside of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This is part of a larger effort to control the spread and eliminate the occurrences of musk thistle within the Nevada County concurrently by cooperating with Nevada

County Agricultural Commissioner. The treatment of musk thistle on southern boundary of the Tahoe National Forest, so that effective control and potential eradication is possible. There is another effort that is funding the Tahoe to treat musk thistle in Sierra County using Sierra County RAC funding in 2012.

Environmental Setting

This portion of the Tahoe National Forest has a high potential for noxious weed infestation because there are many vectors that converge in the Boca Reservoir area. The vectors in the immediate area include traffic from Interstate 80, water flowing down the Truckee River and trains that roll along the Trans-continental Railroad. The hand pulling of noxious weeds would be concentrated along the banks of the Truckee and Little Truckee Rivers up and down stream of the confluence and around Boca Reservoir where the shorelines provide open ground that noxious weeds readily invade. Musk thistle and star thistle have also been able to invade the floodplains and upper slopes above the Little Truckee and Truckee Rivers where it has been able to fill in spaces between the willows and other vegetation.

This area is vegetated by Jeffrey and ponderosa pine forest covering about 70 percent of the landscape. Shrub lands of sagebrush and bitterbrush covering about 20 percent and grass filled meadows and willows occurring along the floodplains along the Truckee and Little Truckee Rivers make up the remaining 10 percent of the landscape. The infestation of musk thistle and starthistle effectively reduces the water quality in the Truckee River, impacts wildlife habitat, and makes access to the river and shorelines difficult or unpleasant. These noxious weed species have a taproot structure that does not hold on to fine sediments very well.

The Boca and Stampede Reservoirs are a center for recreation and wildlife. The area is frequently used by fishermen, boaters including river rafters, campers and wildlife. Boca Reservoir primarily provides a municipal water source to the City of Reno. There are known nest sites for Bald Eagles and designated black-tailed deer fawning areas. The sensitive plant commonly known as Plumas Ivesia occurs in sites to the north and east of Boca Reservoir.

Work Plan

Three temporary workers would be hired to pull musk thistle by hand or using a shovel. The workers would work 40 hours a week starting in early June 2013 and 2014. Work would last through the end of July each of those two years. They would learn to identify the weeds, use GPS equipment, map and monitor musk thistle and starthistle sites. The GPS data would track the acres of treatment and describe the number of noxious weeds present and their phenological stage. It is important to treat infestations before musk thistle has gone to seed and important to know if any seeds have escaped.

The deliverables would be reported in the form of acres of musk thistle removed in 2013 and acres of removed musk thistle and acres seeded in 2014. The supervisor would perform the hiring tasks starting in early March 2013. A contract for seed collection would be awarded and seed collected during the summer of 2013. The seed would be spread during the second field season of 2014 because the seeds would not be collected, dried and ready for spreading until the end of the field season in 2013.

PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Hiring 3 temporary workers	March 1 thru May 1, 2013 and 2014
Seed Contract awarded	May 1, 2013
Workers start pulling musk thistle, taking	June 4, 2013 and June 5, 2014
pictures and filling out tracking forms	

PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Establish permanent monitoring photo points	June 4, 2013 and June 5, 2014
starting	
Workers finish pulling weeds in Tahoe NF in	July 13, 2013 and July 15, 2014
Nevada County	
Monitoring report due on acres treated and	September 28, 2013 and 2014
photo point pictures	
Native Seed Collection starts	June 4, 2013
Native Seed Delivered to Truckee	October 30, 2013
Native Seed Planted	June and July 2014

Restrictions, Technical /Environmental Documents/Agreements:

A Decision Memo to fulfill NEPA requirements for the hand treatment of noxious weeds has been attached below. This vegetation management project meets the requirements outlined under Category 2 of the Conditional Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for waste discharges resulting from the Timber Harvest and Vegetation Management Activities in the Lahontan Region, 2009 Timber Waiver to meet California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) compliance. Category 2 does not require a permit or interaction with the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board in the form of notification, application or monitoring, because the hand pulling of noxious weeds does not pose a significant threat to water quality. The circumstances for this project have been reviewed to determine that this project does not involve actions such as incidental take of an endangered species or impacts to cultural resources. It has been determined that the hand pulling of noxious weeds would be covered under 15304. The objective of the Truckee Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project is to remove noxious weeds, using only hand tools, in such a manner that the native vegetation and soil are left in place.

Organizational Capacity Narrative

The Truckee Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest maintains a staff that support a large variety of programs of work that do everything from providing infrastructure and maintenance in campgrounds to fire fighting and producing Environmental Impact Statements. The East Zone Botanist is a permanent 8 month per year position that is charged with managing the noxious weed program for the east side of the Tahoe NF. The duties of the East Zone Botanist include the hiring of temporary workers, preparing seed collection contracts and training and running the crews to pull noxious weeds and survey project areas for sensitive plant species. The person in this position has held this position for 16 years and has been running temporary crews for the past nine years.

In addition, to the training the crew to perform their assigned tasks, they are also required to perform work safely, use radios for communication and learn to navigate around the forest to find weed sites. **Cooperation and Community Support Narrative**

The East Zone Botanist has been representing the interests of the Tahoe National Forest's involvement in the united fight against noxious weeds in meetings with the Nevada-Placer County Weed Management Area (group). Among the many topics discussed are the coordination of concurrent attack plans for musk thistle and other known noxious weeds in the Truckee River Watershed area.

The Truckee Ranger District has been collaborating with the Truckee River Weed Warrior group who has been reaching out to gather public involvement, community support and provide education. Our strategy is: "Early Detection, Rapid Response." Invasive weeds are important to control, because the worst of them can destroy the biodiversity of places we love, and cost California hundreds of millions of dollars in control costs and lost productivity annually. During the past year the Truckee River Weed Warrior group in conjunction with the Truckee Ranger District have given three weed walks and hosted two volunteer weed pull days. In addition we have given away several hundred copies of the field booklet entitled "Invasive Weeds of the Tahoe National Forest".

Long-Term Management and Sustainability Narrative

The Tahoe National Forest depends on appropriated funds from United States Congress for continued support which are appropriated on a year by year basis. Usually a nominal level of noxious weed program funding is enough to support some noxious weed treatments, grant writing and monitoring of noxious weed sites and to find new weed sites. It has been necessary to look for outside funding to make an attempt to get ahead of the spread. It is anticipated that grant funding can be obtained to step up our effort and provide the extra support needed to attack these larger more complex invasive plant situations. The sustainability would be available for long term maintenance when we get to the point of diminishing weeds. A document has been prepared called the **Truckee River Watershed Invasive Plant Species Strategic Integrated Management Plan** that is being used to guide the strategy for noxious weed treatments.

Many of the new noxious weed sites are found during project surveys during project analysis for NEPA. These projects incorporate mitigations to prevent the influx of noxious weeds on to the National Forests.

Performance Measures Narrative

The Truckee Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project is designed to restore and improve the sites where musk thistle has become prevalent. All known sites with musk thistle would be recorded and mapped into GIS and the numbers of musk thistle plants would be counted when they are pulled, so that the number of plants present before treatment and the area infested can be measured. The successful treatments would be shown by the drastic reduction of musk thistle numbers on those sites known to be infested and the reduction in the size and number of total known sites. Permanent photo points would be established on the largest most dense infestations.

Acres treated by hand pulling of musk thistle and star thistle	Site importance or priority rating	Source of prioritization or importance rating	Purpose
40 acres in area with floodplains along the Truckee and Little Truckee Rivers	High in floodplains	Musk thistle has been rated by the State as "A" (top priority) for treatment. Starthistle has been rated as "C"	Floodplain site restoration replacing musk thistle with native grasses to provide the root structure that can

		but since it rarely occurs on the east side of the Sierra Nevada Mountains is it also of high priority for removal.	hold sediment in place along the river banks during high run off periods and maintain a better environment for public access to the rivers.
180 acres on Boca Hill and surrounding Boca Reservoir	Medium in surrounding uplands including plantations	Musk thistle is typically less dense, smaller and produces fewer seeds on drier hill slopes.	Habitat, (primarily terrestrial)
100 acres around Boca and Stampede Reservoirs	High around reservoirs	High propensity to spread by wind and water and have a high impact to the recreating public.	Recreation

Appendix B3

SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY PROPOSITION 84 - DETAILED BUDGET FORM

Project Name: Truckee Boca Musk Thistle Attack_Project_

Applicant: _Truckee Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest (Susan Urie, East Zone Botanist)_

SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
Project Management Costs 12 days-GS-9	\$3,972.00	\$3,972.00				\$7,944.00
Site Restoration Work Costs 60 days-GS	\$7,680.00	\$7,680.00				\$15,360.00
Project Equipment, GPS unit	\$1,500.00					\$1,500.00
Seed Collection Contract to private Co.	\$2,450.00					\$2,450.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$15,602.00	\$11,652.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$27,254.00
SECTION TWO						
INDIRECT COSTS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
Monitoring	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00				\$2,000.00
Vehicle costs	\$750.00	\$750.00				\$1,500.00
Publications, Printing, Public Relations						\$0.00
						\$0.00
INDIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:	\$1,750.00	\$1,750.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,500.00
PROJECT TOTAL:	\$17,352.00	\$13,402.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$30,754.00
SECTION THREE						
Administrative Costs (Costs may not	to exceed 159	% of total Proj	ect Cost):			Total
*Organization operating/overhead costs 1	\$3,113.44	•	,			\$3,113.44
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
						\$0.00
ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:	\$3,113.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$3,113.44
SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:	\$20,465.44	\$13,402.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$33,867.44
SECTION FOUR						
OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS	Year One	Year Two	Year Three	Year Four	Year Five	Total
List other funding or in-kind contibutors to	project (i.e. Sie	erra Business (Council, Depart	ment of Water	Resources, etc.)	
Sierra County RAC 2012	\$19,020.00					\$19,020.00
•						· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·

NOTE: The categories listed on this form are examples and may or may not be an expense related to the project. Rows may be added or deleted on the form as needed. Applicants should contact the SNC if questions arise.

\$7,000.00

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$0.00

\$7,000.00

\$14,000.00

\$19,641.00 \$0.00 \$0.00 \$0.00

\$52,661.00

\$7,000.00

\$19,641.00

\$45,661.00

Tahoe NF noxious weed program est.

Total Other Contributions:

Am. Recovery & Reinvestment Act (private

* Operating Costs should be allocated to the pecentage that is applica and cannot exceed 15% of your total project costs.	able to the grant based on your cost allocation methodology

Nevada/Placer Weed Management Area Strategic Plan

I. Introduction and Executive Summary

Mission Statement: The Nevada/Placer Weed Management Area (NPWMA) will cooperate and coordinate activities necessary for the prevention and control of noxious and invasive weeds in Nevada and Placer Counties. The emphasis of these activities shall be focused on the prevention of noxious weed infestations and/or their expansion. The priority of control and eradication efforts shall concentrate on the species of local significance as identified by this group.

The Problem: Noxious weed infestations within Nevada and Placer Counties reduce the biological, agricultural, Silvicultural, recreational and economic value of the land. Nevada and Placer Counties will continue to be subject to the introduction of new weed species due to geographic location and high level of commerce.

The Solution: A coordinated approach to identifying sites, developing responses and educating the public will result in a more effective effort to reduce or eliminate noxious weed infestation. Response to noxious weed infestations may include mechanical, biological, chemical and/or cultural control methods.

Goals of the NPWMA Strategic Plan include the following:

- a. Enhance the biodiversity within Nevada and Placer Counties' ecosystems by reducing the risk of noxious weed infestations.
- b. Increase the profitability and value of agricultural and forestry within Neva and Placer Counties by reducing the expense associated with noxious weed control.
- c. Decrease the maintenance costs of roadsides, parklands, open space and waterways within Nevada and Placer Counties by reducing the risk of noxious weed infestations.
- d. Reduce the fire hazard in Nevada and Placer Counties that is associated with noxious weed infestations.

Program elements of the NPWMA Strategic Plan fall into three categories as follows:

- a. Education and Outreach
- b. Identification and Inventory Mapping
- c. Control, Eradication and Exclusion

II. Program Description

General Overview: The NPWMA program is a cooperative effort between federal agencies, state agencies, county government, public organization and private citizens. The organizing principal behind the NPWMA is that through cooperation and collaboration the control and eradication of noxious weeds will be more effective.

The NPWMA program began in January of 2000. It is led by the Nevada and Placer Counties' Agricultural Commissioner's Offices with additional support from various participants in the program. The NPWMA has organized itself around a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that identifies the principal parties of the program. Additional agencies, organizations and individuals can become signatories to the MOU at any time. Signatories to the MOU cooperate in seeking funding to support the activities of the NPWMA.

The NPWMA holds general meetings as needed with agendas mailed out in advance. In addition, there are subcommittees that meet periodically. Signatories to the MOU are encouraged to participate where interested.

Weed Species Prioritization: Nevada and Placer Counties are home to hundreds of non-native "weeds". These weeds are not equal in their abundance, destructiveness, or rapidity of spread. At general meetings in the spring of 2000, the NPWMA identified a list of priority weed species. While these species were identified as "top priority", they are not necessarily equally problematic in every part of the county. NPWMA activities are not limited to these weed species; however, this list may help the NPWMA set priorities on projects. In addition, it is recognized that the weed species priority list can and will be modified as needed.

Table 1 - NPWMA Priority Weed Species List (alphabetical order by common name)

Common Name	Scientific Name
French broom	Cytisus scoparius
Spanish broom	Spartium juncea
Dalmatian toadflax	Linaria genistifolia ssp. dalmatica
Eurasian watermilfoil	Myriophyllum spicatum
Gorse	Ulex europaeus
Hoary cress	Cardaria draba
Klamath weed	Hypericum perforatum
Musk thistle	Carduus nutans
Perennial pepperweed /tall white top	Lepidium latifolium
Purple loosestrife	Lythrum salicaria
Scotch thistle	Onopordum acanthium
Spotted knapweed	Centaurea maculosa
Yellow starthistle	Centaurea solstitialis

Decision Memo for Noxious Weed Control Project

USDA Forest Service

Tahoe National Forest > Truckee Ranger District

Nevada, Placer, and Sierra Counties, California

January 2012

Background

Invasive, or noxious, weeds present a threat to native terrestrial habitats on the Truckee Ranger District. There are numerous State and Federal laws, Forest Service direction, and other regulatory direction that are relevant to the management and prevention of noxious weeds. Forest Service Manual (FSM) 2080 - Noxious Weed Management includes a policy statement calling for a risk assessment for noxious weeds to be completed for every project. In 2081.2 - Prevention and Control Measures calls for the determination of factors that favor the establishment and spread of noxious weeds. The Forest Service is then to design management practices or prescriptions to reduce the risk of infestation or spread of noxious weeds. Where funds and other resources do not permit undertaking all desired measures, address and schedule noxious weed prevention and control in the following order:

- First Priority: Prevent the introduction of new invaders,
- Second Priority: Conduct early treatment of new infestations, and
- Third Priority: Contain and control established infestations.

Work has been conducted on the Truckee Ranger District focusing on all these priorities with specific emphasis on "A" rated weeds such as musk thistle. Ongoing work has focused on inventorying weed locations and treating outlying occurrences while decreasing the sizes of large occurrences. "A" rated noxious weeds are the highest priority on the California Department of Food and Agriculture list of noxious weeds and are to be targeted for eradication or containment. Work has also focused on "B" rated weeds (more widespread weeds) and "C" rated weeds (also widespread but target new occurrences for treatment) where isolated pockets of these weeds occur and/or if the species responds well to hand treatment. The goal of continued weed control is to restore ecosystem function in forests, riverbanks and associated meadows for wildlife and native plants.

Decision

It is my decision to implement the Noxious Weed Control Project as follows:

Allow the hand treatment of known musk thistle and starthistle infestations and other priority "A", "B" and "C" rated noxious weeds where they occur on National Forest System (NFS) lands in the Truckee Ranger District. This project is critical to continue weed control work that has been conducted over the last 15 years. Work would be conducted by hand-treatment (hand digging with a shovel and/or hand pulling) of each individual weed plant. Plants with mature seeds would be bagged and removed from site, whereas plants without mature seeds would be left on site. In addition, reseeding treated areas with native seed will be implemented where needed to minimize weed re-introduction. The removal of

Weed Control Project Page 1 of 5 Decision Memo

noxious weeds and seeding with native seed where appropriate would increase the efficiency of the floodplain to filter out sedimentation and would speed the recovery of native habitat.

Rationale for the Decision

In summary, it is my decision to allow hand treatment of known musk thistle and starthistle infestations and other priority "A", "B" and "C" rated noxious weeds where they occur on the Truckee Ranger District for the following reasons:

- Removal of invasive weeds directly benefits NFS lands by helping to maintain and improve wildlife and native plant habitats.
- Weed removal also helps to improve water quality through stabilizing stream and river banks by allowing the re-establishment of native grasses and other vegetation.
- I also feel the project would improve the overall recreation experience on the district, especially in the wilderness, around the reservoirs and along the Little Truckee and Truckee Rivers.
- This project is an important piece of larger partnerships to control the spread and eliminate the occurrences of musk thistle and other "A" rated weeds within the area. Continuing partnerships with the Truckee River Watershed Council, the Truckee River Weed Warriors, and various county Agricultural Commissions is critical to ensure that an effective control plan is in place.

Reasons for Categorically Excluding This Action

An environmental analysis was conducted for the proposed action. As a result of that analysis, a determination has been made that the project fits in a category of actions that is excluded from further documentation in an Environmental Assessment or an Environmental Impact Statement. This category of exclusion (36 CFR 220.6(e)(6)) requires preparation of a project or case file and decision memo and is applicable to the Noxious Weed Control Project as follows:

Category 6 - Timber stand and/or wildlife habitat improvement activities that do not include the use of herbicides or do not require more than one mile of low standard road construction. As stated earlier, the project will improve and maintain native vegetation communities and habitats for wildlife by hand removal of noxious weeds that are competing with native vegetation. (36 CFR 220.6(e)(6))

The IDT which analyzed this project included resource specialists from the Tahoe National Forest. That team consisted of a botanist, archaeologist, soil specialist/hydrologist, aquatics biologist, wildlife biologist, and timber and fuels specialists. These resource specialists did not identify any significant issues during project review, and all concerns were addressed by inclusion as part of the project proposal.

It was also determined through the environmental analysis that there were no extraordinary circumstances or conditions, as listed in 36 CFR 220.6(b), related to this proposal that might cause the action to have significant effects. Specifically, this determination is based upon the absence, among others, of adverse effects on the following:

i. Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species.

In general, there will be no adverse direct, indirect, or cumulative effects to habitat for any special status species. Because the project involves only the hand removal of invasive weeds,

Weed Control Project Page 2 of 5 Decision Memo

native habitats would be maintained and improved. There are no Federally listed threatened and endangered species or their critical habitat, species proposed for federal listing, or proposed critical habitat that will be adversely affected by this project. The project would not result in any effects to Forest Service sensitive plant or animal (terrestrial or aquatic) species. The project will also not cause adverse effects to management indicator species (MIS) habitats. The project does not have any extraordinary circumstances in relation to any of these species.

ii. Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds.

The project will protect and/or restore water quality, aquatic habitat, and riparian habitat by allowing the re-establishment of native plants which minimizes sediment movement to streams and protects the riparian corridor. No risks of extraordinary circumstances related to cumulative adverse effects were identified.

iii. Congressionally designated areas, such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas.

This project will not have any adverse effects to the Granite Chief Wilderness. There are no wilderness study areas in the Truckee Ranger District. There are no National Recreation Areas on the Tahoe National Forest.

iv. Inventoried roadless areas.

This project will not have any adverse effects to inventoried roadless areas.

v. Research natural areas.

This project will not have any adverse effects to any Research Natural Areas.

vi. American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites & vii. Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas.

Based on past environmental analyses and recent consultations with American Indian tribal councils, the project will not adversely affect any known use areas for religious or cultural purposes. There will be no adverse effects on any archaeological districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. All archaeological sites will be protected and managed according to provisions of the applicable Regional Programmatic Agreement that governs management of heritage resources on the TNF. This work constitutes compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

National Forest Management Act of 1976

All management practices and activities of the proposed action are consistent with management direction, including standards and guidelines, in the Tahoe National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan (June 14, 1990), as amended by the Sierra Nevada Forest Plan Amendment Record of Decision (January 2004), which were developed in accordance with the National Forest Management Act of 1976, 16 USC 1604(i) and 36 CFR 219.10(e).

Weed Control Project Page 3 of 5 Decision Memo

National Historic Preservation Act

Heritage resources will be managed consistent with the provisions of the Programmatic Agreement between the Forest Service, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the National Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and thereby will comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800, and the Tahoe National Forest Plan. The project will have no substantial adverse effects on cultural resources.

Endangered Species Act (1973)

Coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is required for all Federally listed threatened, endangered, and proposed species. There are no Federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed species or their habitats adversely affected by this project.

Clean Water Act (1972)

Water quality will not be adversely affected. The improvement and maintenance of native vegetation communities will help protect water quality.

Clean Air Act (1977)

Implementation of this decision will not cause any air pollutants to be added to the atmosphere.

Administrative Review, Appeal Opportunity, and Implementation Date

This decision is not subject to legal notice and opportunity to comment pursuant to 36 CFR 215.4(a). This decision is not subject to administrative appeal pursuant to 36 CFR 215.12(f), therefore may be implemented immediately.

For more information, contact: Kris Boatner, District NEPA Coordinator

Truckee Ranger District 10811 Stockrest Springs Road

Truckee, CA 96161 (530) 587-3558 kboatner@fs.fed.us

Approved by: <u>/s/ Joanne B. Roubique</u>

01/20/2012

JOANNE B. ROUBIQUE Truckee District Ranger

Date

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Forest Service

Truckee Ranger District Tahoe National Forest 10811 Stockrest Springs Road Truckee, CA 96161

530 587-3558 530 587-6907 TDD 530 587-6914 FAX

File Code: 2080

Date: January 20, 2012

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84, 2011- 2012 Grant Cycle

Dear Sierra Nevada Conservancy Members:

This letter authorizes the East Zone Botanist to apply for the Sierra Conservancy Proposition 84 Grant Program. The grant proposal is asking for funds for **Truckee Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project**, submitted by Susan Urie. The project proposes to hand treat numerous known musk thistle and one known starthistle infestation that are priority "A", and "C" rated noxious weeds, to monitor previously treated areas, and to survey areas for new occurrences. All work would be conducted on National Forest System (NFS) lands in the Truckee Ranger District of the Tahoe National Forest.

I fully support this proposal because it directly benefits NFS lands by removing invasive plants, helping to improve wildlife and native plant habitat, stabilizing the river banks by re-establishing native grasses and improving the recreation experience along the Little Truckee and Truckee Rivers and around Boca Reservoir. In addition, it continues an important partnership between the Forest Service and the Nevada County Weed Management Area group and the Plumas Sierra County Weed Management Area group. This proposal also builds on a new partnership with the newly formed Truckee River Weed Warriors group. It is also important because Nevada County is actively treating musk thistle on private and State lands adjacent to NFS lands and implementing this project will ensure the combined treatments will be most effective. The combined efforts of all the partners are needed to control the spread of this "A" rated noxious weed.

Sincerely,

JOANNE B. ROUBIQUE District Ranger





TRUCKEE RIVER WEED WARRIORS

PO Box 8568 Truckee, CA 96162 www.truckeeriverwc.org

January 20, 2012

Sierra Nevada Conservancy Proposition 84 Grant Cycle

RE: Truckee Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project

To the Sierra Nevada Conservancy Members:

The Truckee River Weed Warriors are a relatively new organization that is forming to fight the spread of noxious weeds in the greater Truckee area. We would like to offer our strong support for the proposed Truckee Boca Musk Thistle Attack Project.

Our mission is to raise awareness within the Truckee community about the spread of invasive plants with the ultimate goal of improving the habitat of the Truckee River watershed. We have been granted funds through the Martis Fund to develop an interactive website that will show an aerial view of known invasive weeds so that we can investigate and post new weed sightings from the public for all to view.

We have been working closely with Susan Urie from the Truckee Ranger District to more effectively reach out to the public and eliminate "A" and "B" rated invasive weeds. Over the past seven years, their program has been making substantial progress toward controlling musk thistle around Boca Reservoir and the Little Truckee and Truckee Rivers. The funding for this work is about to end and without continued effort the musk thistle will again start to increase.

Our experience with Ms. Urie and her programs is that she is a reliable project manager, effective and consistent in meeting her commitments and flexible in helping to achieve our mutual goals in eliminating noxious weeds from our watershed.

We hope you will consider this project for funding.

Sincerely,

Andy Otto /s/ Program Director for Truckee River Weed Warriors

COUNTY OF SIERRA BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

PO Drawer D Downieville, CA 95936 Telephone: (530) 289-3295 Fax: (530) 289-2830

February 24, 2012

Sierra Nevada Conservancy 11521 Blocker Drive Suite 205 Auburn, California 95603

Attn: Mr. Jim Branham

Executive Officer

Dear Mr. Branham:

Thank you for your notice of grant applications being evaluated by the Sierra Nevada Conservancy for projects that are proposed for funding within Sierra County. The Board of Supervisors appreciates the opportunity to evaluate these projects and offer any appropriate comments.

The Board of Supervisors on February 21, 2012 discussed these projects and have requested that comments be forwarded to you for consideration before any decision is rendered regarding grant award. The following comments are offered:

- 1) Project 457-The Nature Conservancy-Forest Restoration and Fuel Reduction Treatments-Independence Lake Property. The Board of Supervisors supports this project as it is consistent with the Board of Supervisors highest priority goals for funding.
- 2) Project 482-Sierra County Land Trust-Easement/Acquisition/Landowner Agreement-Lusk Meadows Parcel. The Board of Supervisors opposes this proposed project on the basis that it appears to be an easement acquisition with little public benefit. There is no working landscape or working operation (family ranch, forest or agricultural land in a working state) on this extremely small parcel (60 by 100 foot parcel) which sits among other like-sized parcels. Such acquisition would not be truly consistent with the spirit of the SNC grant guidelines and thus would not be a proper use of funds. Additionally, the proposal is not consistent with the highest priority use of funds, that being fire fuel reduction, forest treatments and forest health, as has been determined by the Board of Supervisors.
- 3) **Project 500-USDA Forest Service Weed Treatments**. The Board of Supervisors has no comment.
- 4) Project 509-Sierra Valley Resource Conservation District-Carman Creek Watershed. The Board of Supervisors supports the fuel treatment and forest health component of this project but opposes any funding toward watershed restoration that employs the "plug and pond" method of treatment until further study is done that



- identifies and analyzes any adverse impacts, including impacts to downstream water users and existing water rights. The Board of Supervisors urges funding of only the fuel treatment phase of the proposed project.
- 5) **Project 512-USDA Forest Service Weed Treatments**. The Board of Supervisors has no comment.
- 6) **Project 542-Plumas Corporation-Meadow Carbon Markets**. The Board of Supervisors opposes funding of this proposed project as it competes with the highest priority use of funds for fuel reduction and forest treatments as determined by the Board of Supervisors. Further, the Board of Supervisors has not been consulted on this proposed project by the applicant agency.
- 7) Project 575-SedCorp/EPIC-Biomass Facilities Study. The Board of Supervisors opposes the use of funds for this proposed project. This proposed project does not facilitate the highest priority use of funds as determined by the Board of Supervisors. This project is not an on-the-ground treatment and is a study that the Board of Supervisors has determined is not necessary nor will it be in the best interest of its priority level of support for the biomass power plant at Loyalton.
- 8) Project 584-USDA Forest Service-Weed Treatment EA-Smithneck. The Board of Supervisors opposes the use of funds for the proposed project as it is not consistent with the highest priority uses of funds as determined by the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors further noted that this proposed project is an administrative function that should be a responsibility of the requesting agency and by proposing use of funds for such projects, the potential use of funds for on-the-ground treatments is diminished.
- 9) Project 595-Sierra County Fire Safe and Watershed Council-West County Fuel Reduction. The Board of Supervisors supports this project as it matches the highest priority use of funds as determined by the Board of Supervisors. The Board of Supervisors has already forwarded a resolution and letter of support to the Conservancy for this proposed project.
- 10) Project 610-Sierra County Land Trust-Acquisition/Easement/Landowner Agreement-Lusk Meadows. The Board of Supervisors opposes the use of funds for this proposed project for the very same reasons as outlined for "Project 482" as described in paragraph 2 herein.
- 11) Project 613 and 620-California Invasive Plant Council-The Board of Supervisors has no comment.

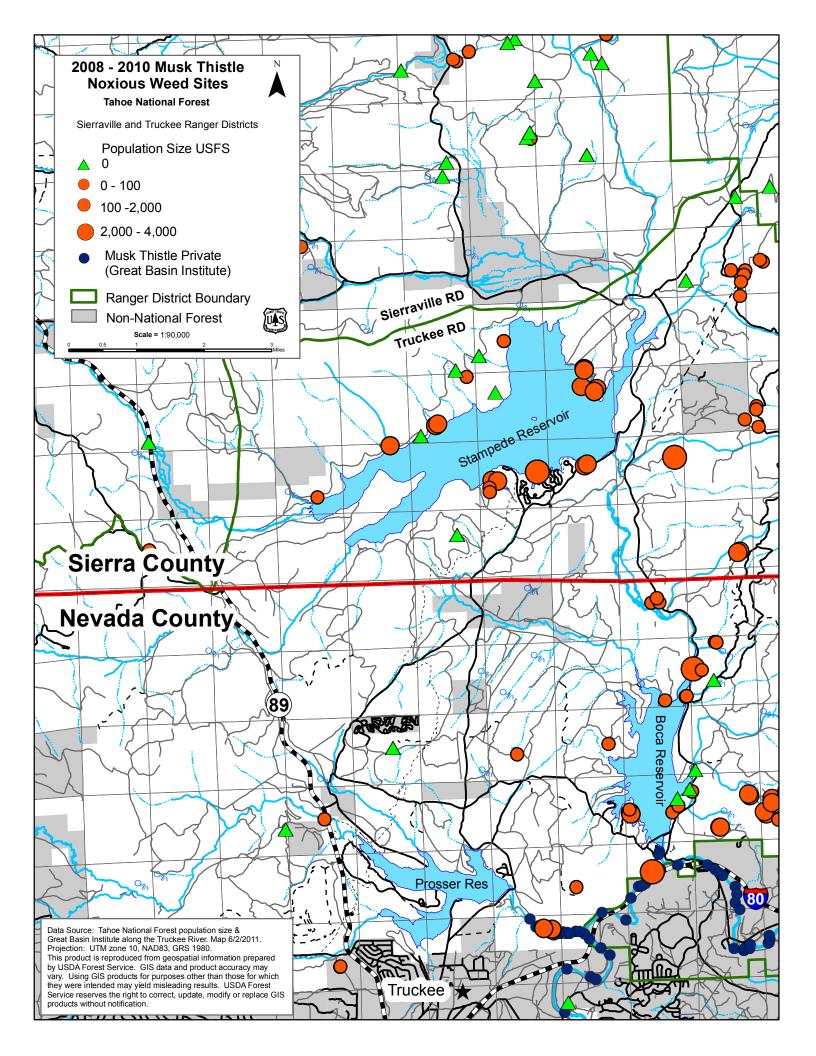
Thank you and if you have any questions or desire further information, please contact the Board of Supervisors at your earliest convenience. We will look forward to your reply

Sincerely,

Sierra County

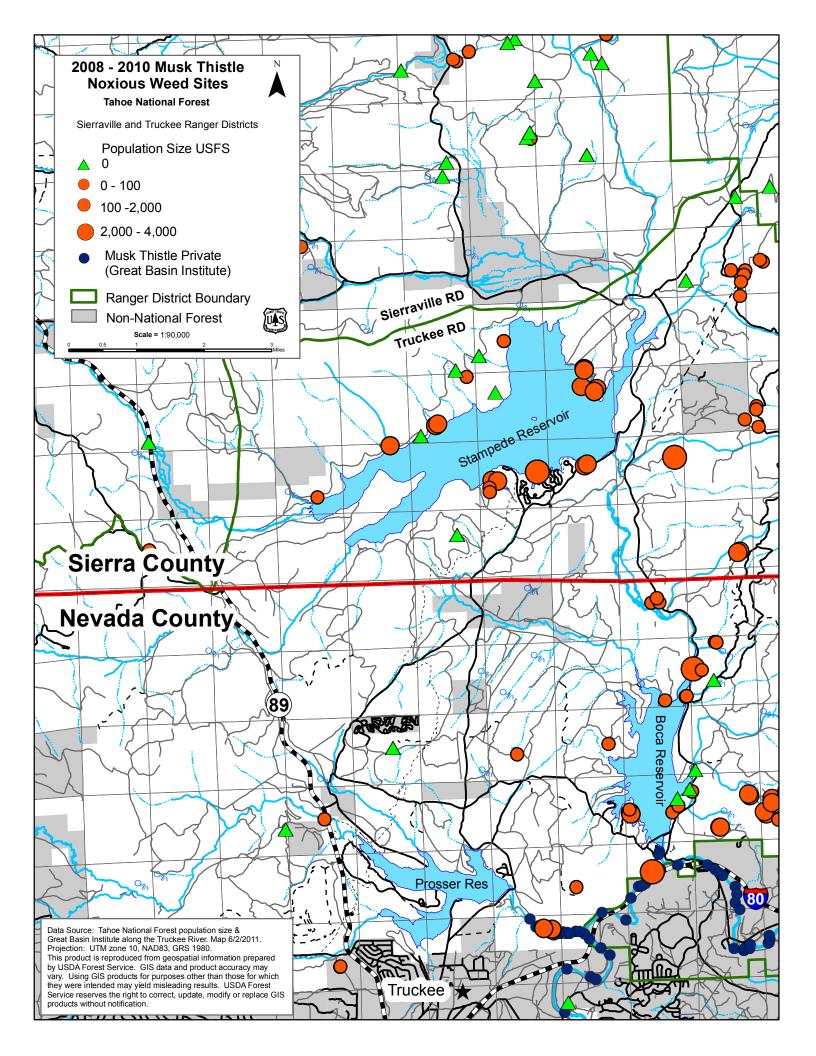
Board of Supervisors

Peter W. Huebner Chairman of the Board



Parcel Map- N/A

- 1. Federal Land with no parcel number(s) or/
- 2. Multi parcel (community fire safe project)















Truckee Boca Musk thistle Attack Project Site- Musk thistle patch surrounded by starthistle west of the Boca Bridge site on the north side of the Truckee River (photo taken July 23, 2011).



Floodplain has become thick with musk thistle on the north side of the Truckee River.



Starthistle and musk thistle occurring on the site west of Boca Bridge site on the north side of the Truckee River (photo taken July 23, 2011).



Starthistle above and musk thistle below after it was pulled July 23, 2011. Pulling works because musk thistle is a biennial and starthistle is an annual. It is necessary to pull it before it sets seed.



This photo (above) shows the musk thistle in close proximity to the Truckee River west of the Boca Bridge near I-80.



This stand of musk thistle exists on the shore of Stampede Reservoir where this site had remained undetected for a few years. Boca Reservoir does not have any sites that are this large because we have been better able to patrol and treat its shoreline to prevent large occurrences from becoming established. (Photo taken July 2010 before plants were pulled.) The shoreline of Stampede was under water most of the 2011 field season. We will revisit this site to make sure that seed sources are exhausted.



